Committee (IJBCC), (jointly sponsored by FICCI and ASSOCIATE, which are private bodies), matter relating to cooperation between SMEs of the two countries has been discussed.

(c) Japan stands fifth in the list of countries from which investments have been approved during the year 1991 to 1996 (up to September, 1996). Japan has invested in diverse areas and has set up industries for manufacture of automobiles, light commercial vehicles, automotive components, steel, petro-chemicals, electronics, telecommunications, glass, engineering goods, consumer products etc.

Financial Problems faced by New Sugar Factories in Maharashtra

1774. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether 27 new sugar factories, sanctioned in the VIIth Plan for the State of Maharashtra faced financial problems due to a large difference in the normative and actual cost of the project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to revise the normative cost of the projects in respect of sugar factories, sanctioned under the VIIIth Plan, keeping in view the cost escalation factor, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have received any request from the Maharashtra Government to accept the revised normative cost;

(e) if so, the action taken in the matter; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (f) The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to revise the Normative cost of the projects to Rs. 40 crores in respect of the sugar factories sanctioned in the VIIth Plan The Government has not prescribed any normative cost, though the financial institutions while assessing the projects have been going by a certain standard taking into account the financing pattern and the prospect of return on capital. The financial institutions are generally concerned with the debt-equity ratio and the financial viability of the project. Since the State Governments contribute a large part of equity of the Cooperatives and also have to guarantee the loans, the question of availability of total finance for a particular unit has to be resolved between them, the cooperative and the financial institutions.

Impact of increase in the price of Metallurgical grade Coal on Steel production

1775. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rise in the price of metalurgical grades of coal has increased the cost of steel production by more than 20% during the last six months; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to ease the problem of steel industry which is facing dumping problem also by overseas steel producers who have stepped up their export to India consequent upon the decision of the Government of India for lowering the import duty on steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is provision in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules framed there under to investigate cases of dumping and levy an additional customs duty if it is established that such dumping causes material injury to the domestic industry.

The Designated Authority under the aforesaid Act, has not received (as on 5.12.96), any petition for imposition of Anti Dumping Duties on any steel product.

Scheme for rehabilitation of Displaced Textile Mill Workers in Gujarat

1776. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared any scheme for rehabilitation of displaced textile mill workers in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the main criteria of the scheme;

(c) whether Government have extended any financial assistance to Gujarat Government for rehabilitation of displaced textile mill workers;

(d) whether Gujarat Government has made any proposal for enhancement of training period for NRF beneficiaries; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Level of Exports of Coffee

1777. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coffee in Karnataka;

(b) the total export of coffee during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) out of the total export of coffee the share of coffee exported by the Coffee Board during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(d) whether coffee export has improved after decontrol of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The estimated production of coffee in Karnataka during 1995-96 is 1,58,900 tonnes.

(b) The export of coffee during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as follows:—

1995-96 — 1,70,578 tonne
1996-97 — 1,22,629 tonne
(as on 4.12.96)

(c) Nil. Coffee Board does not itself undertake any export.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Relationship between Disinvestment Commission and Government

1778. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent statement of the Chairman of the Disinvestment Commission voicing dissatisfaction at the existing state of relationship between the Commission and the Government has been taken note of; and

(b) measures proposed to be undertaken to ensure that the Commission's services are fully utilised to serve the purpose for which is has been set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Commission was set up on 23.8.96. 40 PSUs have been referred to it and they are now looking at them.

Joint venture projects for economic development

1779. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some joint venture projects for economic development have been set up in some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof separately for each State and Union Territory with